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Operation Fair Election Hotline: 1 - 866 - YOUR VOTE

SAVANNAH: Rick Thompson, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced today the implementation of Operation Fair Election and the availability of a toll free hotline for voters in the Southern District of Georgia. Operation Fair Election will be in place on November 5, 2002, the date for the general election in Georgia. According to Thompson, a member of his staff will be stationed at the county courthouse in each of the forty-three counties comprising the Southern District of Georgia. The goal of Operation Fair Election is to allow persons with complaints about the voting process to complete questionnaires and to provide information to a representative from the United States Attorney's Office so that preliminary investigations concerning election irregularities can be conducted after the election.

Thompson said the addition of the toll free hot line will provide another source for voters to make contact with a U. S. Attorney staff member to file a complaint . By dialing the Operation Fair Election Hotline, **1 - 866 - YOUR VOTE (968-7868)** those voters who are unable to fill out a questionnaire in person will be able to file their complaints. The hotline will be available on election day and several days following.

In commenting upon the need for Operation Fair Election, Thompson said, "Operation Fair Election is an extension of the Election Day program that has been a United States Justice

Department initiative for more than two decades. This effort is being made to expand the Election Day protocol in the Southern District of Georgia.”

Having a representative from the United States Attorney’s Office on site in each of the forty-three counties of the Southern District of Georgia and the hotline 1 - 866 - YOUR VOTE will make filing complaints much easier for members of the general public and will provide me with more complete data concerning the types of voting irregularities and election law violations which have been rampant and pervasive throughout the Southern District of Georgia in prior years.”

For further information, please contact United States Attorney Rick Thompson or Dan Drake at 912-652-4422.

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